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given, and another theory* as to the origin of these peculiar markings is added to those already known. Dr. Borthwick thinks that this peculiarity is due to the formation of adventitious roots upon the stem, and that these arise from abnormal medullary rays. In none of the cases examined (with possibly one exception) were such roots due to mechanical injury, or the attacks of fungi or insects. While the conditions which govern the production of adventitious roots are not certainly determined, he is sure that moisture is an important factor, as it is "only in the moistest situation that they persist for any time after they pierce the periderm."

NEWS ITEMS

Mr. Norman Taylor, who has been an aid in the New York Botanical Garden for several years, has been appointed custodian of the garden plantations.

Ira D. Cardiff (Ph.D., Columbia, 1906), professor of botany in the University of Utah, has been elected president of the recently organized Utah Academy of Sciences.

Mr. A. K. Chittenden has been appointed assistant in the U. S. Forest Service to investigate the White Mountains and the Appalachian Mountains in regard to the proposed national park.

* *Ackerman's Repository*, an old English journal of "Arts, Literature and Fashions," published in 1825 an article on "Botanical Theory" which is interesting in this connection. The italics are ours. "This marking is an excellence not peculiar to any one tree, but is occasionally met with in the maple, citron, yew, ash, beech, lime and other trees. A knowledge of the particular time when trees may be expected to exhibit such figured appearances, seems to have been a secret confined to very few, who, by thus having the command of the market, contrived to keep up the prices. To the discovery of this secret, the fair botanist [Mrs. Ibbetson] has been led by her researches in support of a theory which she has the honor of *originating*: namely, that the buds of trees *ascend* from the *root*. Willdenow thought that they were formed in the bark; Mr. Knight says that they originated in the alburnum next the bark. 'Pliny's description of the *bruscum*, so prized by Romans in their tables,' says Mrs. Ibbetson, 'immediately brought to my mind the different figures of the roots of various trees, when cut down at the proper season, for this does not last above a fortnight or three weeks at most in any tree; but if taken within that time, most roots form a very beautiful picture.' This she contends may be attributed to the various grouping of the buds, as they are about to *start*, or have *started*, from the *root* on their progress up the different layers of the wood to the exterior."

The University of Iowa has received from Mrs. L. V. Morgan the botanical collections of her husband, the late Professor A. P. Morgan. The mycological specimens in the herbarium are very valuable, because of Professor Morgan's own work in that line.

Mr. M. Rothkugel, of the U. S. Forest Service, has gone to Porto Rico for three months, to study the conditions there, and to outline a course of management for the Luquillo National Forest, the only insular national forest belonging to the United States.

The new Pacific Scientific Institution which has its headquarters at Honolulu is planning extensive explorations of the Pacific Ocean for the next fifteen years. The work in botany will include the establishment of an acclimatization botanical garden in Hawaii.

The fifth annual field "symposium," in which the Philadelphia Botanical Club, the Washington Botanical Club, and the Torrey Botanical Club will coöperate, will be held at Georgetown, Delaware, July 6 to 12. Particulars as to headquarters, etc., will be announced later.

Professor Herbert F. Roberts, of the Kansas State Agricultural College and Experiment Station, has been commissioned by his home station to spend the summer inspecting the wheat regions of central and southern Europe in search of superior sorts of hard wheats for introduction into Kansas.

The centenary of Darwin's birth is to be celebrated at Cambridge, England, in 1909. A chair of biology is to be established, partly through the anonymous gift of £300 a year, which is contributed upon the condition that the professor shall either teach or make researches in heredity.

Mr. C. G. Pringle, keeper of the herbarium of the University of Vermont and the veteran botanical explorer of Mexico, is planning to make an expedition to South America in the near future. He intends to go by way of Mexico and Panama and expects eventually to reach the Andean region of Colombia and Ecuador.